



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Ostomy Awareness Day

WHEREAS, Ostomy Awareness Day highlights that an ostomy is a type of surgery that allows for drainage when a person has lost the normal function of digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, disease, injury or other disorders; and

WHEREAS, Ostomy Awareness Day affirms that nearly one million living Americans have had an ostomy, with approximately 130,000 new ostomy procedures performed each year, and ostomy surgery can occur at any age and does not lower life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, Ostomy Awareness Day underlines that, largely through the efforts of the United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc. (UOAA) and its over 325 Affiliated Support Groups, Americans needing these surgeries are becoming more aware of the opportunities for education, mutual aid, and support that can be of great benefit to them and their families; and

WHEREAS, Ostomy Awareness Day recognizes that increased public understanding of ostomy will eventually help dispel the fear of those about to undergo this surgery, as well as the fear that confronts their families; and

WHEREAS, Ostomy Awareness Day emphasizes that public education and awareness are vital to ensure that those who are living with an ostomy face no discrimination and are accepted as normal, healthy individuals; and

WHEREAS, Ostomy Awareness Day underscores that both the public and private sectors are deeply committed to proper care and the advancement of knowledge about bowel and urinary diversion surgery as a result of birth defects, disease, injury and other digestive disorders;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 4, 2014, as

"OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY"

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in emphasizing the need for continued educational efforts and mutual aid support for those who have undergone or may need an ostomy, while working to increase public acceptance of ostomy surgery.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fifth day of September, 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i